

## COLONEL WARING'S REPORT.

## TERRIBLE SANITARY CONDITIONS PREVAILING IN HAVANA.

## HE ADVISES A DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC CLEANING, SEWERAGE AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS.

Washington, Jan. 8 (Special).—The official report to the War Department by the late Colonel George A. Waring regarding his inspection of the city of Havana under special instructions from the War Department given him early last autumn shows how thoroughly he executed the investigation in that filthy municipality which resulted in his death. In this exhaustive report which contains invaluable recommendations for the improvement of the Cuban capital Colonel Waring, after referring in general terms to the extent of his researches, says he found the street-cleaning without adequate organization or funds; the markets offensive and dangerously filthy with the distribution of human food, with the exception of two, the Tacón and Colon Markets. He also found the machinery used for sweeping the streets ineffective, the garbage thrown into the streets and in entire disregard of the ordinance requiring garbage to be put into proper receptacles. The work of the contractor was all done in the latter part of the night, and absolutely in the dark, and no attempt seems to have been made to cover or remove the rubbish left overwise.

Foul pools were found in the streets in which rubbish and filth had been deposited, which the contractor was not required to clean, and this filth was turned over to the buzzards. Some of the streets in the compact part of the city are paved with large stone blocks, others with Belgian blocks, and the remainder are unpaved. These streets are filled with dirt holes which in turn are filled up with house garbage. There is practically no sewerage. In many cases households connect their private vaults with loose brick or stone drains just under the pavement along their frontage. These serve to allow the liquid filth to leach out into the ground close to the surface, enabling the householder to get out with much less hiring of night scavengers to bale out and carry away its accumulations than would otherwise be necessary.

Slaughtering pens, while superficially clean, are brutally disgusting while the work is going on. Blood and offal are washed by copious floodings from the water supply into an adjoining creek and harbor, reeking with putrid filth. There is no systematic disposal of garbage and sweepings. It is deposited on the surface in and near the town, where the buzzards feast upon it to their full satisfaction. Dead dogs, cats and chickens are left in the streets until the buzzards pick them to the skeleton. And all this is done under an intense sun. Bad as these conditions are they are not comparable with the disgusting conditions of the domestic life. There are fewer than twenty thousand houses in the city. Sixteen thousand are of one story, two hundred are of three stories, and a few are of four stories, and none higher. At least twelve out of every thirteen of the inhabitants live in one-story houses, the total population being over two hundred thousand. The average population of the houses is over ten.

## PESTHOLES IN PRIVATE HOUSES.

In all the compactly built parts of the city the entire lot is covered with the house, there being one or two courts included in the building. In the better class of houses the entrance hall is commonly the standing-room of the carriage. It opens into the parlor at its sides and into the reception-room at its rear. Beyond this is a court, then the dining-room, then a smaller court, the kitchen, stable and private vault, practically all in one. Sleeping-rooms are in the rear of the parlor and at the side of the court dining-room. The conspicuous feature of every house is the private vault, and sometimes a second vault for kitchen wastes. These vaults occupy a space practically under and almost in the kitchen. It is rare indeed that these vaults have a ventilating pipe, so that they belch forth nauseating odors throughout the house, which pervade the streets. Lest the conditions set forth should fall to their appointed work of destruction, the broad marshes at the southern edge of the harbor are at hand to furnish their quota of malaria. Into these marshes flow a number of water-courses which bear upon their surface the offscourings of a poor quarter of the town, the effluent of the slaughtering pens and of other foul establishments, while a large portion of the flat is used as a dumping-ground for garbage.

The water supply of Havana, says Colonel Waring, is of the purest and most excellent character. This, with the winds of the Gulf, saves the city from being absolutely and unqualifiedly bad. The city is a veritable plague spot. Its own people, largely immune though they are to yellow fever, which has prevailed in Havana without interruption for 163 years, fall constant victims under the pernicious malaria and depressing influences to which they are always subjected. It needs only the immigration of fresh material which the enterprise of an American population is sure to bring in to create a sacrifice such as has not yet been known. Commerce, he says, will carry the terror and the terrible scourge of yellow fever to the shores of the United States, until the Americans rise again in a war of humanity and at all costs wipe out an enemy with which no military valor can cope.

## A DANGER TO BE MET AT ONCE.

In conclusion Colonel Waring says: "Would it not be wise to accept at once the fact that we are confronted with a danger compared with which war is insignificant, and proceed to meet it and conquer it while we may? We cannot afford to wait until we have fed and strengthened it with the lives of our people. The necessary reforms will call for costly works even now. But every month's delay will make them more costly and more imperative. We can at least see these reforms now calmly and judiciously. Later, under the impulse of panic, we should work at far greater disadvantage."

Colonel Waring suggests the following improvements as absolutely essential to make Havana a healthy city:

First—Organize immediately a Department of Public Cleaning, under the full control of a single Commissioner experienced in the conduct of such work, and with authority to do all that the occasion may require. This department, Colonel Waring urges, should have for its chief function the maintaining of a constant state of cleanliness in all streets and public places, in all the public buildings and places of public resort, and all about the public markets and abattoirs. It should also control the disposal of all wastes except sewage, by cremation and otherwise.

Second—Construct a system of sewers to receive the liquid wastes of all houses in the main city as far as Belascoain. These sewers should serve separately the different districts into which the various slopes divide themselves, and each should discharge directly into the Gulf or into the harbor, as the case may be. Before such discharge the effluent should be effectively clarified by one of the various well-known methods, so that it would carry only its dissolved impurities. The amount of sea water flowing into and out of the harbor at each tide is about three thousand times that of a day's discharge of the clarified sewage of the harbor slope of the city, so that the dilution will be immediate and more than complete.

Third—Fill up all the private and kitchen waste vaults, and supply every house with an adequate water-closet connected with the public sewerage system. The closets so furnished should be only what is adequate and necessary for the purposes now served by the vaults.

## COLLECTION OF CUBAN TAXES.

## SPANISH BANK OF THE ISLAND TO CONTINUE THE WORK.

## GENERAL ORDER COVERING DETAILS OF THE WORK ISSUED BY SECRETARY ALGER.

Washington, Jan. 8.—The War Department has finally decided to continue in force, for a time at least, the system of collecting taxes in Cuba practised by the Spanish authorities, but with some important changes made in the plan, all in the direction of liberality toward the taxpayers and of honesty of administration. The plan is embodied in the following general order, which represents a vast amount of hard work by Assistant Secretary Melikoff, which was promulgated by the War Department yesterday.

It is a noticeable fact that the burden of collection, amounting to 5 per cent of the tax, is now assumed by the Government instead of being imposed upon the taxpayer, while the heavy 10 per cent increase in taxation, which was levied as one of the last acts of the Spanish administration, is remitted, as well as all accrued penalties. The text is as follows:

Washington, Jan. 7.—For the convenience of the taxpayers of the island of Cuba, and in order that the Banco Español de la Isla de Cuba (Spanish Bank of the Island of Cuba) shall be able to collect the taxes levied on property and property in the island of Cuba, for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1898, and ending June 30, 1899, also taxes of similar nature levied on persons and things, prior to 1898, and now delinquent and unpaid. The said delinquent taxes shall be levied on the said bank, and shall be paid by the bank to the authorities of the United States subject to future disposition.

The money collected and received by said bank in payment of said taxes shall be reported daily to the commanding general at Havana, and shall at all times be subject to the draft of the commanding general of the island or his authorized agent.

The tax rolls, lists and all books, papers, documents, etc., relating or appertaining to the collection of taxes, shall be the property of the military authorities of the United States of America during the period of the military occupation by the said authorities of the island of Cuba, and during such time as they shall remain in the possession of the said authorities, they shall at all times be subject to the inspection and control of the said military authorities, and no person or persons as the said military authorities may designate shall be permitted to remove or dispose of any of the said books, papers, documents, etc., or to make any alteration or addition to the same.

The increase of said tax by adding thereto 20 per cent of the amount levied, which was levied by the Spanish authorities, shall be cancelled and remitted. The said bank shall deliver to the persons paying said taxes the receipts therefor, and the said receipts shall be delivered by the said bank to the military authorities of the United States of America, who shall be responsible for the collection of the same.

The said bank shall, at its own hazard and expense, transmit the money and receipts to the United States of America, and shall be responsible for the safe delivery of the same to the United States of America.

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## AFFAIRS AT THE NAVY YARD.

## RUSH CAUSED BY THE PRINCETON AND THE SOLACE BEING ORDERED AWAY.

## SMALLNESS OF APPROPRIATION CAUSES A CUT-DOWN IN SHOP FORCES—WORK ON THE MASSACHUSETTS.

There is a rush ahead at the Navy Yard, caused by the announcement that two of the ships there, the gunboat Princeton, Commander C. N. West, and the hospital ship Solace, Commander A. Dunlap, are to be ordered to the Philippines. The Princeton, which has been at the yard for some time, is nearly ready for use, and the Solace is being put into shape for the voyage in about a fortnight. Details of officers and men for the Solace are now being made up, and work on her will be pushed ahead as fast as possible.

The discharges of last week in the machine shops are to be followed by more this week, and a large number of men will be laid off in consequence of lack of money. This is likely to cause considerable trouble. The appropriation remaining for the last half of the fiscal year is, according to the accounts, divided into equal parts, and no more than one portion is to be spent each month. If this plan is carried out it will involve delay in the work on several ships, and the shops will be crowded with unfinished business.

At present the Indiana, the Newark, the Atlanta, the Massachusetts and other big boats are having repairs made, and the torpedo boats are without hullers, they being retubed. Reducing the force at this time is held to be unwise, the better way being, it is said, to go on with the work until it is finished, and then dismiss the men, leaving the shops clear of the ships complete.

Stormy weather and ice in the Wallabout Channel have delayed the operations on the new sea walls, but work has been resumed with a rush. The new houses have suffered in the same way, but the yards and docks department is full of business, as there are now nineteen contracts on hand for new structures or alterations on old ones. This is outside of the work being done by the yard forces.

The New York, which is tied at the stern of the receiving-ship, is not in need of repairs, and came to the yard simply to escape the floating ice at the Tombs and the anchorage.

Down under the hull of the Massachusetts, in the big dry dock, electric lights are burning, electric drills are boring and a swarm of workmen are hammering away at the damaged parts of the vessel's bottom. The repairs will not be completed for some time, and the men are sheltered from the storms by wind sails, which inclose the whole forward under-water part of the ship.

The Vermont was prettily decorated on New Year's Day, when Captain and Mrs. Miller gave a dance on the spar deck, music being furnished by the Navy Yard band. The next reception of this kind will be given on Friday afternoon of this week.

Naval Constructor Bowles has returned to his desk, and affairs in his department have taken on their usual aspect of bustle.

Many additions to the machinery in the shops have been made recently, among them being a machine for cold-bending tubes for the boilers of the torpedo-boats. Among the visitors on Friday who watched this machine with a good deal of interest was Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr., who was accompanied by a few friends.

## TROPHIES OF CERVERA'S FLEET.

## GUNS AND GUN SHIELDS FROM THE OQUENDO, THE VICAYA AND THE MARIA TERESA.

Washington, Jan. 8.—Just inside of the entrance of the Washington Navy Yard and Ordnance Foundry, on the lawn of the commandant's residence, are ranged twenty-one guns and sixteen gun shields, saved by the wreckers from the Almirante Oquendo, the Vicaya and the Infanta Maria Teresa, near Santiago Harbor, which were brought to Washington a few weeks ago by a naval collier. These guns constituted the principal effective battery of Cervera's fleet, although of only single caliber. They were recovered from the Spanish armed cruisers by the United States gunboats, and are now being used to produce any results, on account of the undisciplined and poorly drilled men who constituted their crew.

The trophies are of the type known as Hotchkiss 14-centimeter quick fire, and were the chief reliance of the four cruisers against the trained marksmen and splendid esprit de corps of Sampson and Schley's fleet. When these rifles were recovered, during the salvage operations, evidences were found that some of them had never been fired, even in practice drills, the gun chambers

showing not the slightest erosion, and presenting unmistakable indications that powder had never been burned in them. The fact that some had projectiles sticking in their bores and others contained unexploded cartridges brought by panic-stricken gun crews. The breech blocks of the weapons had been thrown overboard before the ships sank.

The guns are now being replaced at the Washington Ordnance shops had not the configurations which, except the breechings, rendered them useless for offensive purposes. Several of the gun shields were performed by a deep scar, which ruins it as an effective piece of armor. The guns, which are being replaced at the Washington Ordnance shops had not the configurations which, except the breechings, rendered them useless for offensive purposes. Several of the gun shields were performed by a deep scar, which ruins it as an effective piece of armor. The guns, which are being replaced at the Washington Ordnance shops had not the configurations which, except the breechings, rendered them useless for offensive purposes. Several of the gun shields were performed by a deep scar, which ruins it as an effective piece of armor. The guns, which are being replaced at the Washington Ordnance shops had not the configurations which, except the breechings, rendered them useless for offensive purposes. 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